



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

Program: Huanglongbing (HLB – Citrus Greening) Date: September 16, 2005

On September 2nd, USDA APHIS PPQ confirmed the presence of Citrus Greening Disease (*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*) in the area of Miami, Florida. Citrus Greening is a bacterial disease vectored by a psyllid, *Diaphoria citri* present in Florida. A unified command was promptly with the state of Florida and detection/delimiting surveys begun.

A total of 52 employees (31-USDA and 21-FDACS) reported to the project yesterday. To date, 480 properties have been surveyed, from which 216 symptomatic samples were collected. There are currently 26 properties in Miami-Dade with 36 positive trees, all residential. The survey employs a 5-mile "leap frog" approach, surveying an area, turning in suspect samples, then "leaping" to the next 5-mile area to look for symptoms before receiving the confirmations on the first area. The objective is to rapidly determine the extent of the infestation in Florida. PPQ and Florida Division of Plant Industry are evaluating diagnostic needs to ensure that there is sufficient surge capacity to handle the samples resulting from the survey. Possible treatments for the vector are also being evaluated, along with environmental issues.